EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF PRISONS AND PUBLIC CHARITIES

UPON THE

ONTARIO INSTITUTION

OF THE

EDUCATION AND INSTRUCTION OF THE BLIND

BRANTFORD.

BEING FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1889.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

TORONTO:
PRINTED BY WARWICK & SONS, 68 AND 70 FRONT STREET WEST.
1890.

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OFFICE OF THE

INSPECTOR OF PRISONS AND PUBLIC CHARITIES, ONTARIO,

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, TORONTO, November, 1889.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith, to be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the Eighteenth Annual Report upon the Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Blind, Brantford, being for the year ending 30th September, 1889.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. CHRISTIE,

Inspector.

THE HONOURABLE J. M. GIBSON, M.P.P.,
Secretary for the Province of Ontario.

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INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

EIGHTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF PRISONS AND PUBLIC CHARITIES

FOR THE

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
Toronto, November, 1889.

To the Honourable SIR ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, K.C.M.G., *Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR :—

I beg to submit herewith the Eighteenth Annual Report upon the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Blind, Brantford, being for the official year ending 30th September, 1889.

I have the honour to be,
Your Honour's most obedient servant,

R. CHRISTIE,
Inspector.

ONTARIO INSTITUTION

FOR THE

EDUCATION AND INSTRUCTION OF THE BLIND

In submitting the annual report upon the work of this Institution it is unnecessary to make a lengthened statement in regard to its operations during the past year.

In the reports of the Principal and Examiners which follow will be found detailed statements of the work accomplished, and from its past history as an educational institution, together with its present organization and good prospects for carrying out the purpose of its establishment, the hope may well be entertained that the no small measure of success which has been reached will in time to come be exceeded and that good results will continue to show themselves in the work of the institution.

Inspections.

Copies of the minutes made by me after my various inspections are appended :—

I made an inspection of the Institution for the Blind on the 17th July, 1889, principally with the view of determining in regard to some improvements provided for under Capital Appropriation, and requiring to be completed, so that the coming session of the institution might not be interfered with by having the premises in an untidy condition at the time of the reassembling of the pupils.

The principal work to be done is the laying of the hardwood floor in the corridor, at the estimated cost of $40.00; an expenditure in the bursar's office, for renovating it, not to exceed $50.00; also kalsomining the corridor connecting the kitchen with the main building; the painting and pointing of the Principal's house, not to exceed the sum of $100.00; instructions were given to have these matters completed within the prescribed time, and not to exceed the estimated cost as above.

In view of the extended and increased waterworks system now being constructed for the purpose of securing an ample supply for the city, some correspondence has taken place with the authorities for the purpose of estimating the cost for a supply from this source for the better protection of the institution buildings, in the event of a fire. Somewhat different plans may be adopted for the accomplishment of the purpose, and the superintendent was requested to make more definite enquiry in regard to cost of the works that would be required, in event of the supply being furnished by the city for fire purposes.

An appropriation was also made during the last session of the legislature, for the better disposal of sewage. The most favorable time for the construction of such works would be during the vacation term. In view of the very probable success of the new system by the use of the porous carbon, now being tested in several localities, it is deemed better to delay operations until the tests would prove the desirability of its adoption at the institution.

In company with the Honourable the Treasurer, I again visited the Institution for the Blind, Brantford, on the 22nd October, and saw the several classes engaged in literary work, and also the pupils employed in the industrial branches.

The classification and distribution appeared to be made with due care and judgment, with the object of affording the pupils the best opportunity for acquiring knowledge according to their individual aptitude and ability.

The important question of the best methods of imparting instruction to the blind continues to receive careful consideration, and, from time to time, improvements are being introduced which will no doubt result in adding interest to the work of the class-room, and in many ways tend to the advancement of the pupils under instruction.

In this regard the recent adoption of the "Kindergarten" system in teaching the junior classes appears to be attended with good results in developing the mind, and enabling the sightless pupil to apprehend more fully and rapidly the lesson taught.

The number of pupils now on the roll, in residence, is 138, 79 males and 59 females, or a total of 138, all of whom, with one exception, were in good health, and reported to be zealously and actively engaged in the work of the session.

During the recess the institution buildings have all been thoroughly gone over, and any necessary repairs have been made, and the apartments throughout are found to be comfortable and neatly kept. All the available space, however, is now occupied, and in event of the admission of a larger number the question of increased accommodation, on the female side especially, will have to be considered.

The necessity for a large number of separate apartments for music practice is obvious, when at least a good degree of proficiency is to be looked for. And although no space in the building has been taken up for this purpose which could be done without, yet the necessities in this regard have from time to time made some encroachment which, together with the actual class-room accommodation required, has left no separate apartment which can properly be used as a sitting or recreation room for the female pupils, and such additional room for their use in stormy or severe weather is indispensable.

In consequence of the light rain-fall for many months past the probable insufficiency or failure of the water supply from the present source is causing some anxiety. The spring from which it is got for culinary and domestic use has largely diminished from its ordinary flow, and the rain water-tanks which have been relied upon for a supply for laundry purposes, have also been empty or nearly so for a long time past. In view of the permanent system for supplying the city being now in operation, enquiry will be made as to the terms upon which water can be obtained for the institution from that source, at least to the extent of making good the quantity which is lacking, to make it ample, both for domestic use, and for service for fire purposes.

The grounds were in good order but the crops, owing to drouth during the past season, have in most cases been inferior.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT.

To Robert Christie, Esq.,
Inspector of Public Institutions, etc.

Sir,—I have the honor to present the report of the Ontario Institution for the Blind for the year ending September 30th, 1889, and shall, in the first place as in former years, deal with the

Statistics of Attendance.

The enrolment of pupils during the session under review numbered 148, or twelve more than in the previous session. Of the 148 pupils eighty-six were males and sixty-two females. One youth, immediately after the vacation of 1888, having evinced a determination to violate the rules and encourage others in their violation, was promptly returned to his friends for the remainder of the session. At the close of the session the register showed a pupil population of 147, of whom eighty-five were males and sixty-two females, and of these 116 had re-entered on the 30th September, 1889. This leaves thirty-one to be accounted for as follows :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Graduates :			
Willow workers	3	0	3
Piano tuners	2	0	2
From literary classes	1	1	2
From work-room, knitting and fancy work classes	0	1	1
Fairly proficient in literary and other branches	1	2	3
Obtained employment	2	0	2
Left Canada	1	0	1
Excluded, owing to mental incapacity	0	3	3
Excluded, owing to improved sight	1	0	1
Detained at home for explained cause	0	1	1
Detained at home for causes at present unknown	4	0	4
Detained at home temporarily	5	1	6
Removed owing to ill health	1	1	2
	21	10	31

The attendance on the 30th September, 1889, was 135, eleven more than were present at the corresponding date last year, and included the following :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pupils of preceding session	65	51	116
" former sessions re-admitted	4	1	5
New pupils	8	6	14
	77	58	135

It will be observed that in the first table above given six pupils are described as "Detained at home temporarily." Their return will bring up the total pupil population of this session to 141, eighty-two males and fifty-nine females. But to these will shortly be added the youth excluded a year ago now re-admitted on probation, and one new male applicant. There are three or four others on the list for admission, one or more of whom may possibly enter before long. According to present appearances we shall, before Christmas, have to provide accommodation for not less than 143 pupils, or three in excess of what we regard as our full number, and ten more than were in attendance on the 31s

December, 1888. My last year's estimate of the probable maximum enrolment was exceeded by eight, and I shall be safe in predicting that, before the vacation of 1889, we shall have registered for the current session close upon 150 pupils. No special efforts have been put forth during the past year in the way of canvassing for new pupils, although during the holidays calls were made by officers at my request in several instances where a personal interview seemed to be desirable.

I drew attention in my last report very pointedly to the lamentable evidence too frequently afforded of parental ignorance, or indifference, or mistaken affection as preventing the attendance and education of blind young persons, whose lives are simply wrecked by the refusal to place them in the institution. I do not propose to say more on the subject of compulsory education at this time, except to remark that it might possibly be applied tentatively to the cases of those youths who are in any respect dependent, or likely to become dependent, on municipal support. Such cases do exist within my personal knowledge.

The ages of the new pupils are as follows:—

Years.	Males.	Females.	Total.
7	0	1	1
10	1	0	1
13	1	3	4
14	1	1	2
15	1	0	1
16	0	1	1
19	1	0	1
22	1	0	1
28	1	0	1
35	1	0	1
	8	6	14

Graduates of 1889.

Some reference to the attainments and prospects of the pupils who have recently graduated in various branches of learning and instruction may be interesting, as showing very forcibly the benefits conferred by the institution on those who avail of its advantages. Of the willow shop graduates the senior is a young man twenty-six years of age. He lost his sight by an accident when he had just arrived at manhood. His employment, previous to his entering the institution, had been exclusively agricultural, but to a well developed mechanical faculty he added a most conscientious attention to instruction, and close application to his business. He has graduated at the end of four brief sessions with a full outfit of tools, models and material, and qualified to hold his own in the production of any article in his line, from the rough bushel-basket to the handsome rattan rocking-chair, with any seeing workman in the province. Both the other willow shop graduates entered while children and took the usual course of literary studies. Their introduction to the willow shop was, as is usual in such cases, gradual, but both made excellent progress, and have graduated before attaining the age of twenty-one years. They have now started in life with good prospects of success. One of them is a member of a family of twelve children of whom six are eligible for admission to this institution, and have availed of the privilege. Four, all very intelligent pupils, are still here. The third willow shop graduate is one of a family of five, all eligible for admission. Two elder brothers have already passed through the institution, and a younger sister has just entered.

Two young men have, it will be noticed, graduated from the piano-forte tuning class. One of them came to us after having failed, from defective vision, to succeed in another vocation. He is now engaged by a local firm as their tuner. His graduating companion proved to be the possessor of very superior musical talents which have had here full opportunity for development. Under Professor Baker's able instruction he has attained to great proficiency on the violin, his favorite instrument; he has also taken a full course

in harmony, is an excellent pianist, and is quite competent to fill the position of a church organist. He is now engaged by Messrs. Mason & Risch, of Toronto, in whose factory several of our pupils have found employment, When I add that this young man is the son of an ex-settler on a free grant lot in Muskoka, and has been for some years practically parentless, his indebtedness to this institution will need no further illustration.

The male graduate from the literary classes had made good progress with his studies at a public school when circumstances made application for his admission to this institution necessary. He had ample opportunity and ability to succeed well as a piano tuner and musician, but high if somewhat vague aspirations in other directions, led to his—in my opinion—too early retirement. The female literary graduate had been with us from a very early age. She had not only reached the head of her literary classes, but had found time to become thoroughly proficient in the use of the sewing machine with all its attachments, as well as in every description of knitting and crochet work. Her musical attainments were considerable, and quite sufficient to enable her to be the teacher of others. The pupil referred to as graduating from the work room and knitting classes has also made a most creditable use of the opportunities afforded her.

The Mentally Incapable.

The work of this institution, although mainly directed to training blind young persons to maintain themselves in case of need wholly or in part by their own efforts, cannot be limited to this object. A large class will always remain who, while their own lives are made happier and the burden of their support is to some extent lightened by the education and instruction they receive here, are still quite unequal to independent exertions; and there are those, too, who, while capable of learning up to a certain point, can never acquire enough knowledge to be practically useful. But the degree of their mental incapacity is not always ascertained in the first instance. How much is due to neglected education and how much to actual intellectual deficiency can only, in many cases, be decided by trial and observation. Unless the question of incapacity is beyond reasonable doubt, I feel it to be my duty to grant the application for admission and to give the pupil the opportunity of showing, under judicious treatment, whether his continuance in the institution is likely to be of any real value or not. Two of the three recently excluded were allowed to remain for several sessions, and withdrawn at last only when further progress appeared unattainable. The other child was but a few weeks in the institution. She was found to be too defective to warrant her retention.

The Staff.

The staff of teachers and instructors has undergone no changes, I am glad to say, since the last report was issued. I can but repeat my acknowledgments of past years to those to whose devotion to duty and kindly concurrence in every plan or arrangement calculated to further our work must be ascribed in a large measure the satisfactory results attained.

The Literary Classes.

It must be obvious that, to a large proportion of our pupils, what is usually known as high literary culture is unattainable. Their circumstances in life, as a rule, limit their opportunities to a curriculum about equal to that of a well-conducted public school or at most of the junior classes of a High School. And I think our examiners will bear me out in stating that, for thoroughness of teaching, we may fairly claim at least equality with the institutions just mentioned. But when, or even before, this standard is reached a natural and commendable desire usually shows itself to be doing something having a more direct bearing on future means of livelihood. On the other hand, as suggested in my last report, it is only right to give to those whose personal surroundings and intellectual faculties and tastes call for it such superior advantages as may be reasonably afforded. Last session we accordingly took up in our senior classes the study of Eth-

nology in connection with Geography, and Philology in connection with Grammar. An elocution class was also formed and did good work. In English Literature our pupils have always done well, but last year the scope of their studies was broadened by the introduction in an elementary form of the history and character of French, Spanish and Italian literature. This session we have gone a step further and, in addition to the foregoing, have formed a select class of five pupils who are taking up the University Matriculation course with the prospect that, here and there, one may enter upon a career for which such preparation is essential. I must at the same time caution parents and others interested against allowing young persons, altogether inexperienced in the difficulties which inevitably lie in the path of their ambition, to throw up practical, and, as experience has demonstrated practicable pursuits for visionary ideas of intellectual achievements and fame. That, so far as passing an examination is concerned, the way may be smoothed and that, with a certain outlay of money on private tuition, a blind person may secure his degree need not be questioned. But all are not equal to the close and laborious application necessary to the attainment of that end, many cannot command the necessary funds, and then the question arises what will the blind B. A. do for himself when he has secured that coveted distinction. He may achieve honor, professional or political fame, nothing, I grant, is impossible to energy and genius, but he may turn out after all nothing but a book peddlar, the least desirable of decent occupations to which a blind man can resort and envy his precarious lot the blind organist, pianist, music teacher, piano tuner or willow worker. It may, it is true, be laid down as an axiom that no blind man knows, nor do his friends know, what he can do with proper instruction and appliances; but equally true is it, that he never realizes the difficulty of doing what he has to do until he has to face the doing of it. For a detailed account of the work done by the Literary Classes the reader is referred to the Examiners' report appended.

The Music Classes.

The studies of the Music Classes proceeded with unbroken regularity during the last session and have been renewed with much spirit since the pupils re-assembled. A pleasant event, and one in which the institution may feel itself honored, was the winning by Miss M. A. Callaghan, one of our music teachers, of the gold medal at the second year examination for the degree of Bachelor of Music at Trinity College. This fact, among others, indicates the high class of instruction received by our pupils. One of the latter is now taking a course of musical study in the hope in due time of following in the steps of his accomplished teacher. Three of our female pupils have returned and one is yet expected to rejoin us, principally with the object of gaining further training and practice as music teachers. One of them also instructs a junior class in Theory. Another of these young persons is also under Mr. Williams attaining a high degree of proficiency as a church organist. Our organ, piano and violin classes are all in a very encouraging state and quite full. The whole of the pianos were carefully examined at the end of the late session and those needing it were thoroughly repaired. One or two, however, have, I fear, little chance of being useful for more than the present session. One new instrument will be required, and I trust the recommendation of Professor Aldous in favor of supplying the clarionet stop to the pipe organ will be favorably regarded.

The Tuning Class.

This class contains the same number of pupils as did the class of last session. I have already noticed the favorable auspices under which two of the piano tuners recently graduated. The reports we hear of our ex-pupils of the tuning class are almost uniformly encouraging.

The Willow Shop.

Mention has been made of the three pupils who have graduated since my last report from this department. There are at present thirty pupils, some five or six in excess of the

usual number, under Mr. Truss's instruction. Of these, twenty-one are exclusively willow workers—the others still combine with industrial work a certain amount of literary class study. I append the Trade Instructor's report :—

TRADE INSTRUCTOR'S REPORT.

MR. A. H. DYMOND,
Principal.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit my report upon the operations of the workshop during the year ending September 30th, 1889.

It is no very easy task to point out anything new in a work which has been the subject of so many yearly reports. The common-place matters connected with industrial employment and the teaching of twenty-five or thirty blind boys to earn their daily bread require, to make them interesting, the ability of one who can magnify little things into importance. I have no such talent and must content myself with reporting, to a great extent, the experience and detail of many former sessions.

The work of the session, as usual, has been marked by industry on the part of most of the pupils, although, as may be expected, there are a few exceptions to this record. Those pupils who have not distinguished themselves by industry have, however, received special attention and have been made to understand that of all contemptible things nothing is so contemptible as laziness. They have been reminded that "Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do," and that Satan tempts everybody, but that a lazy person tempts the devil. Not one lazy pupil during the entire session has been allowed to spend one day in a state of unrebuked and unruffled laziness. We have had a fair degree of good temper and cheerfulness, the result has been excellent progress.

In additiou to the stimulation afforded as indicated, generous encouragement and rewards have been given to the industrious. At the close of the session three full outfits were presented to as many graduates—the three outfits costiug about $250. This was provided from the proceeds of the sales of the pupils' work. The graduates are competent to make by their owu efforts a great variety of baskets, rattan chairs, etc., etc., and should, by their labors, be able to support themselves. I have every reason to believe they will do so. A liberal supply of willow and rattan was given to ten pupils for their use during vacation. The following statement will show the result :

D. M. earned	$39 00
A. C. "	35 00
J. W. "	44 00
C. B. "	30 00
R. H	no report.
G. M. earned	$30 00
J. W. "	20 00
T. N	no report.
E. S	no report.
W. L. earned	$38 50
	$236 50

I. P., a pupil who spent the session at home, turned out one hundred dollars worth of work.

I would draw particular attention to one pupil, a French Canadian, who, during the vacation exhibited remarkable perseverance and industry : in addition to earning $39 at willow work he cut fifty cords of wood, for which he was paid $25. He has returned this session hearty and with the smile upon his face which comes to the youth who believes that fortune smiles upon those who roll up their sleeves and put their shoulder to the wheel, and that good luck comes from a hard day's toil. He evidently believes in the dignity as well as utility of labor.

The following statement shows the amount realized from sales during the session and work still on hand :

Sales	$628 93
Value of work on hand	200 00

The present session has commenced with all the pupils in good spirits, which gives promise of a very successful term.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Yonr obedient servant.

THOS. TRUSS,
Trade Instructor.

THE LIBRARY.

Among the new issues from the American printing houses of which we have availed ourselves have been, "Selections from Character," (Smiles) : "Land of the Pyramids," "All the Russias ;" Cæsar's "Commentaries ;" Life of Sir Walter Scott, etc., etc. Our stock of specimens for object teaching will bear some additions, and the library will be further strengthened if means are afforded us, as they doubtless will be to procure several new works in line type or point print now in the press. The increased supply of books printed in point is highly advantageous to all whose sensitiveness of touch has diminished with age or owing to the use of the hands in industrial vocations. To such the line embossed type is of little value.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The instruction of the pupils in Biblical knowledge has never been lost sight of in connection with this institution. On Sunday morning, immediately after roll call and the usual devotional exercises, the Protestant pupils, in seven classes under as many teachers, and formed on strictly undenominational principles, study the International Lessons. The Roman Catholics assemble at the same time under the charge of an officer of their own communion. To assist our young folks to obtain a better knowledge of Biblical geography and the places and regions alluded to in the Scriptures we have coustructed in duplicate raised maps of the Holy Land and of all the region connected with the sacred narrative, from Rome the most easterly point reached by St. Paul in his recorded travels to the mouths of the Tigris and Euphrates on the west, and including Egypt and the Nile as far south as the first cataract. These additions to our teaching appliances have proved to be very useful and interesting.

HEALTH.

The health of the pupils during the last session was generally excelleut. We had, however, at different times three cases of diphtheria, fortunately sporadic, not epidemic in their charactor. The isolation of the patient in each case was effected immediately on the disease presenting itself and was as complete as could be desired. Not the slightest evidence could be discovered of any connection between the cases nor could either be traced to any local cause. All three made good recoveries. Why after an interval of two years and while all around were healthful these three young persons between whom there was, as it happened, no association should have been at different times attacked is a problem that may very well puzzle even scientists. Having regard to the isolated nature of the attacks and the entire seclusion of the patients, I deemed it unwise to excite alarm by any public announcements, and everything went on as usual. The event I venture to submit justified my course of action in this respect. A very careful examination of every pupil immediately after his or her arrival since the vacation has been made by Dr. Marquis, our medical officer, and his reports to me of the general condition have been

highly gratifying. While, however, the drainage and trapping arrangements are in, as I believe, the best of order, the plan hitherto pursued in regard to the disposal of sewage has certainly been to say the least most unscientific, and while I do not believe it has been productive of any actually harmful results, I am glad to know that a scheme is viewed with departmental approval that will place the harmlessness of our sewage output beyond all doubt or question.

Discipline.

With the exception of the case already mentioned which resulted in the prompt exclusion of the offender, I had very little trouble or cause for anxiety in connection with discipline. It was gratifying to feel that, while, in some pupils, there was room for amendment, with one or two exceptions at most, all leaving at the end of the session would at the close of the vacation be received again with pleasure. Good discipline in any school, and especially in an institution for the blind, must be looked for chiefly in the quiet and continuous maintenance of order and authority, rather than in occasional exhibitions of firmness or demonstrations of severity. Nothing assures this better than the presence and oversight of a staff of well trained teachers conscientiously concerned for the welfare of their pupils, and that advantage the institution certainly enjoys at the present time.

The Kindergarten.

The adoption of the Kindergarten system for the younger pupils and the appointment of a teacher specially trained for this work, has now been fairly tried and I venture to say with unqualified success. To those who only looked at the Kindergarten superficially the idea of applying it to blind teaching seemed no doubt almost an absurdity. But not so to any who understood the close relationship that existed between Kindergarten instruction and the objective principle that should underlie all attempts at the proper training and education of blind youths It is in its methods rather than in its principles that the Kindergarten is new to us. Our class of young Kindergarteners has, in the few months it has been under instruction, made excellent progress. Visitors experienced in the work of both blind and seeing Kindergartens have come to the same conclusion in this regard. Nor is it in class work alone the Kindergarten has been a helpful agency. How to manage and control the younger of our pupils, children sometimes not over six to seven years of age, and untrained, untaught youngsters of even a little longer growth, has been hitherto a difficult problem. And yet the tendency—and one too that is to be encouraged—has been, of late years, to increase the proportion of the very young to the whole pupil population. For the ordinary classes, the higher the scholastic acquirements the teacher possesses the better it is for the pupils. Our officers almost invariably hold a first class certificate or its equivalent representing a high degree of experience in their calling. This has brought them chiefly into contact with and fitted them for teaching pupils of ordinary school age and growth. The mind of the Kindergarten teacher, on the other hand, assimilates itself to the mental condition and wants of children of tender years, grasps their ideas, and learns to adapt itself to their needs and peculiarities. Hence there grows up between the Kindergarten teacher and her class a feeling of attachment which is a powerful instrument for good. In a disciplinary sense, not less than in its relation to physical development and mental culture, the Kindergarten may be in an institution for the blind an instrument of untold value.

Improvements.

No important work in the direction of additions or improvements has been accomplished during the past year. Some substantial repairs in the interior of the building will have to be provided for in the next year's appropriations. The provision during the late vacation of a "Watchman's Detector" recording as it does with undeviating accuracy the presence of the night watchman at given points and at stated hours, is a most valuable guarantee of vigilance and gives additional assurance of safety. On other points connected with protection against fire I have had the pleasure of presenting my views personally and by correspondence.

The First and Last "Want."

It was I must confess with extreme disappointment I found that no appropriation for a gymnasium appeared in last year's estimates. I shall not repeat arguments that have been already used again and again in favor of such an expenditure, but will just state a few propositions no person having any knowledge of the wants and requirements of blind pupils will dream of controverting:—

1. That blind youths have no means of cultivating physical development effectually unless special apparatus is provided for them.

2. That by reason of delicacy of constitution the majority of blind youths need, even more than the seeing, such means of physical training and development.

3. That no institution for the blind is or can be complete without a well constructed and properly furnished gymnasium.

4. That it is now a recognised fact that physical training is a primary necessity in the education of the blind.

5. That the mental and industrial education of the blind is at every point thwarted and obstructed by the want of systematic physical training.

6. That a gymnasium for the blind must be (1) A substantial well warmed building. (2) As nearly as possible a part of the main buildings, accessible without exposure to weather or changes of temperature by all the classes and by both male and female pupils as part of the daily routine of school exercises. (3) Large enough to be used for general exercise when the weather confines the male pupils within doors. When these simple statements of fact are recognized and acted upon the first and last educational want of the Ontario Institution for the Blind will have been supplied.

Grounds, Farm and Garden.

The abundant rains in the earlier months of the late season gave great promise of heavy crops as well as most successful tree culture. But by the recurrence for the third year of a protracted summer drought the pleasing anticipations at first indulged have been sadly blighted. Our hay crops were excellent, but the almost total absence of rain for two months, just at the time when the potato and root crops most needed moisture, has reduced the yield by at least one-half, and our supply will have to be supplemented by purchases from other sources. The effect of the drought on the newly planted young trees has been no less detrimeutal. I trust the time is not far distant when we may have some artificial means of supplying water to our trees neither so cumbrous nor so tedious as those we are now of necessity constrained to adopt.

Acknowledgments.

I am again privileged to acknowledge the kind interest taken by the clergy of Brantford and the citizens generally in the welfare and prosperity of this Institution. Nor must I forget to mention the most valuable help rendered in cases of sickness by the nursing staff of our well conducted city hospital.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

A. H. DYMOND,
Principal.

Brantford, October 1st, 1889.

EXAMINER'S REPORT.

Literary Department.

The classes were examined by Mr. Wilkinson, M.A., Principal of the Brantford Central School, and by Dr. Kelly, Public School Inspector. Their report is as under :—

In accordance with your instructions the undersigned examined the litrary classes in the Institution for the Blind at Brantford, commencing at 9 o'clock, a.m., the 27th of May, and continuing three days. The various school rooms were found in a satisfactory state and the order throughout good. The results of the examination show that the teachers in the various departments have discharged their somewhat onerous duties faithfully and efficiently. The classes are grouped under the names of the several teachers.

(a) *Mr. Wicken's Classes.*

1. *Arithmetic*—Class B, limits: simple and compound numbers. Fractions, problems in these. The maximum was 100—the number in the class 14—of these, five obtained over 50 per cent. and none fell below 33⅓ per cent. The answering was, on the whole, fair.

2. *Reading*—Class A, 17 in number; maximum 100. The reading was in prose and verse. All obtained half marks or over. Enumeration, tone, pitch, emphasis, etc., generally satisfactory.

3. *English Grammar*—Class B, 13 in number, 4 boys and 9 girls. Have acquired a fair knowledge of the elements of English grammar. Understood the formation of sentences, and parse and analyze simple ones very well. Their use of English, as shown in their answers. is correct. Examples of false syntax were very well corrected, most of the pupils furnishing good reasons for the corrections made.

4. *Writing*—Class A. To test their composition and penmanship, the pupils were asked to write a letter from New York describing a visit they had made to that city. The letter was well executed, the writing being more legible than that of last year. The composition, on the whole, was fair. In spelling and capitalizing very few mistakes were made.

5. *Physiology and Hygiene*—A class solely of boys. They were questioned on the structure of tho human body, the location and functions of the various organs and the general laws of health. They have a fair knowledge of respiration, digestion and circulation, and some acquaintance with the nervous system. The class is younger than that of previous years, but has an evident relish for the study and has acquired a good degree of knowledge concerning it.

6. *Ethnology and Geography*—Class A. The examination of this class was very satisfactory. In ethnology, Huxley's classification had been followed and very well mastered. The answers were full and intelligent, showing that considerable care had been taken to give the pupils the required information. The class was also examined on the geography of Asia, its climate, productions, religions, customs, inhabitants, as well as in many other incidental matters. The results were uniformly good. No class in any school could have done any better.

(b) *Miss Gillin's Classes.*

1. *Geography*—Class B, 17 in number. Limits: United States, South America, in detail, and general review of the Dominion of Canada. The class was submitted to a pretty thorough examination within these limits, and answered with much intelligence and correctness. The maximum value of the answers was 100. Only three fell below half marks and one came very near the maximum.

2. *Writing*—Class D. The penmanship of this class is generally satisfactory, being facile, clean and legible.

3. *English History*—Limit : From Roman Period to reign of Charles I. As usual this class did well. The majority answer with great intelligence. Know the general outline as well as the details accurately. The maximum, 100, was obtained by two.

4. *English Literature*—In this favorite subject there is a class of 21 pupils, comprising the brightest young people of both sexes in the institution. The limit embraces the history of English, French and (this year) Spanish literature. The outline history of English literature from Cædmon down to the present is very well known. Of French literature they have some knowledge of early writers such as the *Trouveres* and *Troubadores* later, of Sir John Froissart, Rabelais and Montaigne, still further down, of Corneille, Racine, Moliere, the Encyclopædists, of Lamartine, Alfred de Musset, Chateaubriand Victor Hugo, etc. In Spanish literature they commence with the Cid and go on to Cervantes, Calderon, Lope da Vega, etc. Don Quixote they have read in part, and in French extracts from the writings of Montaigne, Montesquieu and the maxims of de la Rochefoucauld. Much of the play of the Merchant of Venice they had memorized, being especially well up in the "Trial Scene." Of Matthew Arnold and his writings, too, they knew something. The *viva voce* examination in this subject lasted over two hours and the results were eminently satisfactory to the examiners if not to the examinees.

5. *Arithmetic*—Class C, 21 pupils. Their work consists of problems involving a knowledge of the tables of weights and measures, reduction and the compound rules. Problems covering the limit were solved with speed and accuracy. A bright, hard-working class with the exception of two, who are evidently defective. The evidences of improvement in some is very marked and the attention of all shows careful teaching and wise management.

6. *Grammar*—Class D. The pupils of this class were thoroughly examined in the definitions and general terms used in grammar, and especially as to the knowledge of the inflections of the different parts of speech and the application of them. The subject had been thoroughly taught and a good foundation laid for future work.

7. *Canadian History*—This class was submitted to an examination which embraced the different periods in Canadian History, the principal events in each period and the deeds of its chief men. The pupils evinced a good knowledge of the causes and results of the various important events and a more than ordinary interest in later events—an acquaintance with our constitution and the causes of its origin ; 10 out of the 14 in the class obtained 80 per cent or over.

(c) *Mr. Alexander's Classes.*

1. *Arithmetic*—Class D. A class of 21 present. Work : elementary. Limits : highest section subtract six figures—multiply up to 20×20 in tables or any number up to 100 by factors, divide any number up to 20, and simple problems. This section, considering age, etc., did fairly well. The juniors are just beginning.

2. *Grammar and Philology*—Class A. 14 in number. The examination was both oral and written. A stanza of Grey's Elegy was correctly analysed and the words parsed. The written examination was mainly on philology, Earle's Book being the one used. The questions were of such a character as to constitute a thorough test of their knowledge of this subject being quite up to the standard usually set for second class certificates. They did better in the oral than in the written examination. However, in the combined results nine got over 50 per cent. of the maximum. There was abundant evidence afforded of careful painstaking teaching.

Reading—Class A. ; embracing 4 subdivisions, the majority reading from embossed type, a few from point print. The enunciation, expression and emphasis were generally satisfactory.

4. *Writing*—B. Class. The work here was very good, the letters were well formed and the movements facile.

5. *Geography*—Class C. This class was examined on the geography of the Dominion, each province being taken in order. The knowledge of the pupils was thoroughly tested as to the locations of the principal cities and towns and their railway connections. They were also required to find on the raised map the chief capes, islands gulfs, etc., and were examined on all parts of interest connected with each. A good general knowledge was manifested of the climate and productions of the several provinces. Mr. Alexander has made a number of raised maps, so that each desk is furnished with one. The teaching had been thorough and the results of the examination were highly creditable.

(d) *Miss Walsh's Classes.*

1. *Grammar*—C. Class. A class of 19. Limit: the indicative mood and its tenses, analysis of simple sentences and parsing. The analysis and parsing of this class is all that could be desired. The answers were very full and accurate and the teaching had evidently been careful and exhaustive.

2. *Geography*—Class D, 2 divisions, 20 present. Limit: Ontario, definitions, counties, towns, railroads, rivers, lakes, islands, etc. Very fair work done. Answers generally accurate and full.

3. *Object Lessons*—11 present. Specimens submitted for examination: humming bird, seal, armadillo, fox, kangaroo, squirrel, porcupine. Of the distinctive anatomical features, the habits and habitat of the several specimens the children had a most intelligent appreciation and seemed to take delight in exhibiting their knowledge.

4. *Arithmetic*—Class A, 15 in number. The order and discipline of the class of very high character and tone excellent. The examination was of a practical character, questions relating to stocks, interest, measurement of lumber, surfaces and solids with a few involving analysis. All the problems were solved correctly, one pupil obtaining correct answers to all and three others to all but one. The average was 70 per cent. Miss Walsh has evidently worked hard and successfully and has made the study of arithmetic a pleasure to her class.

5. *Reading*—Class B, 11 pupils and 4 more attached for individual instruction. Distinguish similar forms with great readiness, enunciation very clear, expression good, understand what they read and the meanings of the more difficult words. On the whole did well. Their spelling is fair but not quite equal to the reading.

6. *Elocution*—The class was examined at considerable length in this subject which had been taught in a very sensible and thorough manner especially as to the elements. Pupils have correct notions of the uses of the organs of speech and have been so trained as to produce at command such tones as may be required,—have a nice appreciation of the pitch, movement and tone united to the proper reading of the different species of composition—illustrating by quotations, recitations, etc., the principles examined. This new subject in Miss Walsh's hands promises to be as useful as it is evidently popular.

(e) *Miss Johnson's Classes.—Kindergarten, etc.*

1. *Reading*—Class E, consisting of pupils of different grades from alphabet up to a few reading in the first-book. The work had been well done and a good foundation laid. There was abundant evidence that much care and patience had been exercised to produce the results witnessed. A large amount of good work has been accomplished in a short time. Besides the reading we observed the folding, weaving and modelling done by the pupils. The work was remarkable and fully proved the suitability of the Kindergarten for the instruction of the blind. An examination in connection with the third gift was witnessed in which many of the forms possible were shown by the pupils. The singing of Kindergarten songs and the marching to the music formed an interesting part of the work and was very nicely done.

(f) *Mr. Connolly's Classes.*

1. The gymnastic exercises conducted by this teacher were of a highly satisfactory character. Two divisions, one of 12 pupils, and another of 7 competed for prizes, and so close were the merits of the contestants that it was extremely difficult to decide on the victor.

2. *Reading*—Class A, class of 13. Results satisfactory.

MUSICAL DEPARTMENT.

This was again examined by Professor Aldous, of Hamilton. A copy of his report is given below :

I beg to submit the report on the examinations that I held in the Institution for the Blind, in Brantford, on Thursday, May the 30th and Friday, May 31st. I was pleased to note the continued good results of the graded system, the pupils being divided between Mr. Williams, Miss Callaghan, Miss Moore and some pupil-teachers. I was pleased also to find considerable progress in many of the pupils, some of whom are now well advanced musicians in several branches. The organ playing was very interesting too, the pieces of some of the senior pupils being brilliant and artistic. In this connection I would strongly recommend the insertion of the pipes for the *clarinet* stop, the absence of which deprives many attractive organ pieces of their full effect. Also, from constant use, the pedals are beginning to get somewhat noisy ; a fault which Mr. Warren could remedy in a short time and at little expense.

Mrs. Howson, whose absence from illness was noticed last year, was found at her post, and under her care the vocal class has been going through some careful drill. I still noticed a weakness in the male voices. Surely some among the male students must have an ambition to shine as vocalists.

The violin class, under Mr. Baker, was not so large as I had hitherto found it ; but the work done was just as good.

The thoughtful and thorough work done by the Harmony Classes was most gratifying, showing that they are not only well grounded in the rules, but thoroughly understand what they are about.

A new feature was the juvenile theory class in which the younger pupils are thoroughly grounded in the elements of music.

I strongly commend the dictation of music to the pupils for transcription in point-print, which has the treble advantages of

(1) Furnishing each pupil with his own library ;

(2) Making him more self-reliant, etc. ;

(3) Making his progress more steady as well as rapid.

There are some of the tuners, who study under Mr. Raymond, well prepared to go out into the world and earn a good living.

At every visit I am struck by the hearty singing at the daily service, which would put to shame any ordinary congregation.

In closing I must take this opportunity of thanking the Principal and the staff generally, for the kindness and help afforded me during my short visit.

J. E. P. ALDOUS, B.A.,
Cambridge, Eng.

June 12th, 1889.

Maintenance Expenditure

For the year ending 30th September, 1889, compared with preceding year.

Service.	Total expenditure year ending 30th Sept. 1888.	Weekly cost per pupil	Yearly cost per pupil.	Total expenditure year ending 30th Sept. 1889.	Weekly cost per pupil.	Yearly cost per pupil.
	$ c.	c. m.	$ c.	$ c.	c. m.	$ c.
Medicines and medical comforts	140 25	2 0	1 06	181 12	2 4	1 29
Butcher's meat, fish, poultry, etc	3,090 65	45 0	23 41	3,145 00	43 1	22 46
Flour, bread, etc	886 93	12 9	6 72	1,086 38	14 8	7 76
Butter, etc	1,297 96	19 0	9 84	1,175 39	16 1	8 39
Groceries	2,086 43	30 3	15 80	2,049 72	28 1	14 64
Fruit and vegetables	636 01	9 2	4 82	266 78	3 6	1 90
Bedding, clothing and shoes	790 85	11 5	5 99	640 65	8 4	4 58
Fuel	3,145 83	45 8	23 83	2,802 51	38 5	20 02
Gas, oil, etc	1,029 40	15 0	7 80	1,054 30	14 4	7 53
Laundry, soap and cleaning	341 94	4 9	2 59	349 10	4 7	2 49
Furniture and furnishings	915 67	13 3	6 94	435 62	5 9	3 11
Farm, garden, feed and fodder	1,185 75	17 2	8 98	962 61	13 2	6 87
Repairs and alterations	1,443 79	21 0	10 94	762 09	10 4	5 44
Printing, postage and stationery	606 29	8 8	4 59	704 83	9 6	5 03
Books and educational appliances	1,292 84	18 8	9 80	731 04	10 0	5 22
Miscellaneous	1,593 64	23 2	12 07	1,536 52	21 0	10 97
Salaries and wages	16,226 02	2.36 3	122 92	16,792 93	2.30 6	119 95
	36,710 25	5.35	278 10	34,676 59	4.76	247 69

Average No. of pupils in 1888—132. | Average No. of pupils in 1889—140.

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

ROBT. CHRISTIE, Esq.,
Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities,
Province of Ontario.

SIR,—In obedience to the regulations of the Institution for the Education of the Blind, I forward to you in a most incomplete form the Physician's annual report for the year 1889. My appointment as physician to the Institution took place just one year ago, but owing to ill-health I was obliged to spend last winter in the south, and leave my work at the Institution in charge of Dr. Secord, an able and experienced physician of this city. During his attendance one or two sporadic cases of diphtheria appeared among the pupils, but were quickly stamped out by the energetic measures adopted. As this disease is now known to be transmitted frequently through atmospheric influences, and many cases of diphtheria were at the time in the city, not far from the Institution, it is but reasonable to infer that it was through this medium the germ was inhaled by the pupils, who in a delicate condition of health became a ready prey to the disease. There have been no deaths in the Institution since my appointment; indeed the health of the pupils improves under the management and discipline carried out so patiently and thoroughly by the staff. A sufficient amount of exercise will not be taken by the blind unless it is compulsory, and here they are obliged systematically to take it every day, weather permitting.

I cannot close this report without thanking the Principal for his kindness to me during the past year, for in the delicate state of my health, now, I am happy to say, much improved, I was at times quite unable to perform my duties so satisfactorily as I could desire.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

D. MARQUIS.

ONTARIO INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

Statistics for Year Ending 30th September, 1889.

I.—Attendance.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Attendance for portion of year ending 30th Sept., 1872	20	14	34
" for year ending 30th September, 1873	44	24	68
" " " 1874	66	46	112
" " " 1875	89	50	139
" " " 1876	84	64	148
" " " 1877	76	72	148
" " " 1878	91	84	175
" " " 1879	100	100	200
" " " 1880	105	98	203
" " " 1881	103	98	201
" " " 1882	94	73	167
" " " 1883	88	72	160
" " " 1884	71	69	140
" " " 1885	86	74	160
" " " 1886	93	71	164
" " " 1887	93	62	155
" " " 1888	94	62	156
" " " 1889	99	68	167

II.—Age of Pupils.

	No.		No.
Seven years	4	Eighteen years	8
Eight "	7	Nineteen "	6
Nine "	3	Twenty "	10
Ten "	4	Twenty-one "	8
Eleven "	5	Twenty-two "	7
Twelve "	9	Twenty-three years	7
Thirteen "	14	Twenty-four years	4
Fourteen years	10	Twenty-five "	5
Fifteen "	10	Over twenty-five years	22
Sixteen "	15	Total	167
Seventeen "	9		

III.—Nationality of Parents.

——	No.	——	No.
American	2	Norwegian	2
Canadian	65	Scotch	14
English	47	Wendish	2
Irish	24		
French	8	Total	167
German	3		

IV.—Denomination of Parents.

——	No.	——	No.
Baptist	10	Methodist	42
Congregational	5	Presbyterian	31
Children of Peace	1	Roman Catholic	24
Episcopalian	50		
Lutheran	4	Total	167

V.—Occupation of Parents.

——	No.	——	No.
Actor	1	Manufacturer	1
Agents	5	Marble-worker	1
Baker	1	Merchants	10
Book-keepers	3	Miller	1
Blacksmiths	6	Notary Public	1
Butchers	1	Painters	2
Carpenters	8	Physician	1
Carpet-cleaner	1	Sailor	1
Carriage builder	1	Sheriff	1
Clerk	1	Soldier	1
Conductor	1	Stone-mason	1
Contractor	1	Shoe-makers	4
Clergyman	1	Surveyors	3
Cabinet-makers	3	Tailor	1
Drover	1	Tanner	1
Engineers	5	Tinsmiths	3
Farmers	51	Tradesman	1
Gardeners	3	Veterinary surgeon	1
Harness-makers	2	Unknown	7
Hotel-keeper	1		
Laborers	28	Total	167

VI.—Cities and Counties from which pupils were received during the official year ending 30th September, 1889.

County or City.	Male.	Female.	Total.	County or City.	Male.	Female.	Total.
District of Algoma	....	1	1	District of Muskoka	2	.....	2
City of Belleville	....	1	1	" Nipissing	1	.....	1
County of Brant	2	2	4	County of Norfolk	1	1	2
City of Brantford	2	2	4	" Northumberland	.....	1	1
County of Bruce	1	4	5	" Ontario	2	4	6
" Carleton	1	.....	1	City of Ottawa	4	.....	4
" Dufferin	1	1	2	County of Oxford	.....	1	1
" Dundas	.....	1	1	" Peel	1	.....	1
" Durham	1	....	1	" Perth	1	.....	1
" Elgin	1	2	3	" Peterboro'	2	.....	2
" Essex	3	4	7	" Prince Edward	2	.....	2
" Frontenac	1	.....	1	" Prescott	1	.....	1
" Glengarry	3	.....	3	" Renfrew	2	3	5
" Grenville	.....	1	1	" Russell	.....	....	....
" Grey	1	4	5	City of St. Catharines	.....	.....	.....
City of Guelph	1	....	1	" St. Thomas	3	1	4
County of Haldimand	3	2	5	" Stratford	.....	.....	.....
" Halton	3	1	4	County of Simcoe	.....	4	4
City of Hamilton	3	3	6	" Stormont	3	1	4
County of Hastiugs	1	1	2	City of Toronto	15	....	15
" Huron	1	3	4	County of Victoria	1	1	2
City of Kingston	3	1	4	" Waterloo	1	1	2
County of Kent	.....	1	1	" Welland	1	.....	1
" Lambton	6	4	10	" Wellington	4	1	5
" Leeds	1	....	1	" Wentworth	.....	2	2
" Lanark	1	.....	1	" York	7	5	12
" Lennox	2	....	2	North-west Territory	.....	1	1
" Lincoln	1	1	2				
City of London	2	1	3	Total	99	68	167
County of Middlesex	.....	.....	.....				

VII.—Cities and Counties from which pupils were received from the opening of the Institution till 30th September, 1889.

County or City.	Male.	Female.	Total.	County or City.	Male.	Female.	Total.
City of Belleville	3	1	4	District of Muskoka	3	.....	3
County of Brant	5	5	10	County of Norfolk	6	6	12
City of Bradford	7	6	13	" Northumberland	2	7	9
County of Bruce	5	9	14	" Ontario	6	7	13
" Carleton	2	1	3	City of Ottawa	9	1	10
" Dufferin	1	1	2	County of Oxford	2	3	5
" Dundas	2	2	4	" Peel	1	1	2
" Durham	2	3	5	" Perth	2	8	10
" Elgin	3	3	6	" Peterboro'	10	2	12
" Essex	6	10	16	" Prince Edward	3	2	5
" Frontenac	5	2	7	" Prescott	1	.....	1
" Glengarry	5	.....	5	" Renfrew	7	5	12
" Grenville	2	1	3	" Russell	1	1	2
" Grey	6	10	16	City of St. Catharines	2	.....	2
City of Guelph	2	2	4	" St. Thomas	3	1	4
County of Haldimand	4	4	8	" Stratford	2	....	2
" Halton	5	1	6	County of Simcoe	4	9	13
City of Hamilton	9	8	17	" Stormont	4	.....	4
County of Hastings	5	3	8	City of Toronto	27	14	41
" Huron	6	7	13	County of Victoria	4	2	6
City of Kingston	5	3	8	" Waterloo	5	3	8
County of Kent	6	4	10	" Welland	4	2	6
" Lambton	9	3	12	" Wellington	9	6	15
" Leeds	7	1	8	" Wentworth	7	7	14
" Lanark	1	1	2	" York	15	10	25
" Lennox	3	1	4	Province of Quebec	2	.....	2
" Lincoln	3	3	6	North-west Territory	.....	1	1
City of London	7	8	15				
District of Nipissing	1	.....	1	Total	275	209	484
County of Middlesex	7	7	14				

VIII.—Cities and Counties from which pupils were received who were in residence on 30th September, 1889.

County or City.	Male.	Female.	Total.	County or City.	Male.	Female.	Total.
District of Algoma		1	1	County of Middlesex			
City of Belleville		1	1	District of Muskoka	1		1
County of Brant	2	2	4	" Nipissing	1		1
City of Brantford	2	2	4	County of Norfolk		1	1
County of Bruce	1	2	3	" Northumberland		1	1
" Carleton	1		1	" Ontario	1	4	5
" Dufferin	1	1	2	City of Ottawa	2		2
" Dundas		1	1	County of Oxford		1	1
" Durham	1		1	" Peel			
" Elgin	1	2	3	" Perth	1		1
" Essex	2	4	6	" Peterboro'	1		1
" Frontenac	1		1	" Prince Edward	2		2
" Glengarry	3		3	" Prescott	1		1
" Grenville		1	1	" Renfrew	1	3	4
" Grey	1	3	4	" Russell			
City of Guelph	1		1	City of St. Catharines			
County of Haldimand	3	2	5	" St. Thomas	2	1	3
" Halton	2	1	3	" Stratford			
City of Hamilton	3	2	5	County of Simcoe		3	3
County of Hastings		1	1	" Stormont	2	1	3
" Huron	1	1	2	City of Toronto	13		13
City of Kingston	3	1	4	County of Victoria		1	1
County of Kent		1	1	" Waterloo	1	1	2
" Lambton	5	4	9	" Welland	1		1
" Leeds	1		1	" Wellington	2	1	3
" Lanark	1		1	" Wentworth		1	1
" Lennox	1		1	" York	6	5	11
" Lincoln	1	1	2				
City of London	1		1	Total	77	58	135